

# Pitch Pines Park

This small park is located on North Haven's last undeveloped parcel of sand plain, which was formed at least 15,000 years ago as the last melting glacier deposited sand and gravel debris in this area. With little nutrients available, the stony, sandy soil normally supports little plant growth, but the Pitch Pine has managed to adapt to this difficult environment.

The Pitch Pine (*pinus rigida*) is an ancient plant species and one of only two conifers that has the ability to sprout needles from its trunk or along the thicker branches. This unique adaption allows the plant to survive if the main trunk is damaged by fire. The pitch pine is so named because it oozes large quantities of resinous sap which was once collected for the pitch used in wooden ship building.

The lifespan of a Pitch Pine is around 200 years, and they can be found from southern Maine to northern Georgia. Pitch Pines are the primary tree found in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, but the stand of pines in this park is one of the last to be found in Connecticut. For this reason the Town of North Haven has permanently protected this land from development.



Photo by Emmeline Alaconis, SCRCOG

## Trail Description:

### Easy Walk

Pitch Pines is a small, easy walk. In the center of the walk is a vernal pool. This hiking area is perfect for short walks or runs while being surrounded by the old pines and other plant life.

Total trail distance is approx. 0.22 miles

## Directions and Parking:

Interstate 91 to Exit 13. At the end of the ramp take a left on Route 5 and follow past Wharton Brook State Park. Take a left on Scrub Oak Road just after the park and a right on Bradley Street at the stop sign. The park is about a half-mile down on the left. Cars can park on the street or in the small parking area near the entrance.

## Permitted/Prohibited Activities:

The trails are for recreational use. No motorized vehicles. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed. Please pick up all animal waste.



Photo by Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Total Trails Length: Approx. 0.22 miles

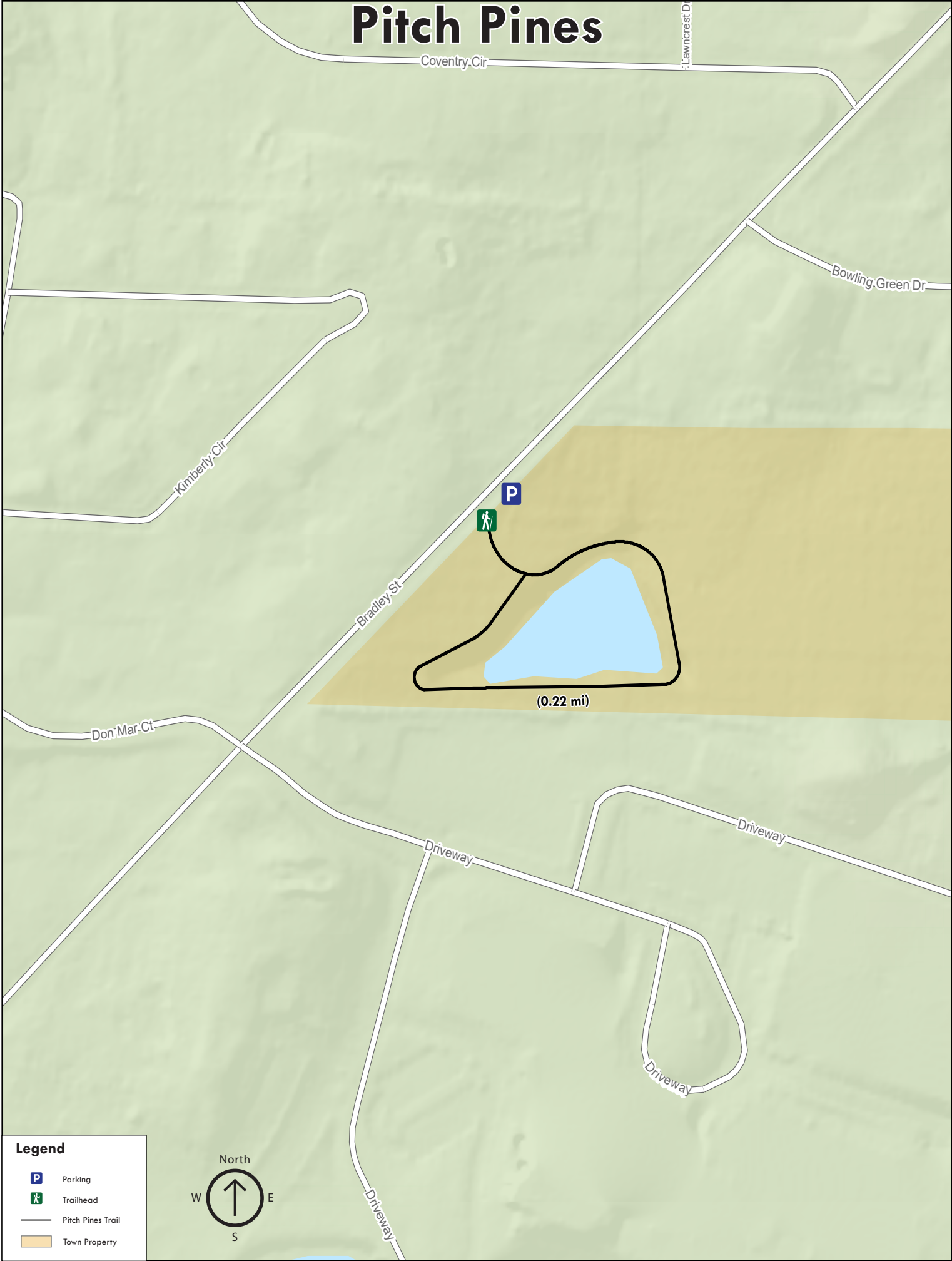


## For more information about this location, contact:

North Haven Department of Public Works  
(203) 239-5321, ext. 750



# Pitch Pines



## Legend

-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Pitch Pines Trail
-  Town Property

